



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO EMPLOYEES COMMITTED TO ENERGY CONSERVATION

Energy Conservation Action Plan Cuts Electricity Costs at City Facilities

SAN DIEGO, CA — Are the lights on when nobody's home? Simply turning off the lights or setting office equipment to "power down" when not in use cuts energy costs. To help keep electricity costs low and continue last year's energy conservation success, the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department's Energy Conservation and Management Division created an Energy Conservation Action Plan brochure. The plan was distributed to all City of San Diego employees this summer.

"Reducing energy usage not only decreases electricity bills, it also saves valuable resources," said Richard L. Hays, director of the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department. "We issued an energy conservation plan during the summer and winter of 2001 and City employees made huge efforts to reduce energy use, which ultimately helped the City avoid millions of dollars in potential energy costs."

From 2000 to 2001, energy bills for the City were predicted to double from year's past to \$34 million annually. By following guidelines in the City's summer and winter energy conservation action plans, employees reduced energy usage that resulted in the City avoiding \$3.2 million in energy bills. The City's over all energy costs were reduced by 13 percent when compared to expenses during 2000-2001.

Energy conservation measures include turning off computers at the end of the work day and removing personal electronic equipment such as fans or space heaters. In addition, the City's Energy Conservation and Management Division supervised such tasks as modifying lighting fixtures in City facilities and removing energy inefficient equipment.

"While San Diego is not faced with stage three alerts every day as we were last summer, we have experienced a stage two alert," said Hays. "Energy prices are still very high and most likely will not go down. Until state and federal attempts to mitigate energy prices are worked out, energy conservation

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still remains the most cost effective method to control the City’s energy expenses. We will once again make every effort to aggressively implement the energy conservation plan and continue to pursue technologies to generate renewable energy.”

The City Manager and the Energy Conservation and Management Division require all city employees to follow tips listed in the City’s Energy Conservation Action Plan brochure listed below:

- Remove personal electronic appliances, such as space heaters, electric water fountains, refrigerators, clocks, radios, etc. from work spaces.
- Turn off printers, copiers and personal computers outside of normal working hours.
- Utilize energy saver modes on copiers and other equipment.
- Open blinds to maximize natural light and turn off all non-essential lighting in work areas.
- Utilize task lighting rather than full overhead lighting where feasible.
- Close doors to unused rooms.
- Set thermostat between 74° - 78° F.
- Set hot water heaters no higher than 105° F.
- Unplug refrigerated water coolers and drinking fountains.
- Turn off or reduce hours of operation for all decorative fountains and lights.
- Install occupancy sensors for task and overhead lighting.
- Evaluate which areas are over-lit and remove select light bulbs/tubes.
- Shut off parking lot lights at determined hour or use sensors in questionable areas.

Additional steps taken by City Directors and Managers to ensure energy conservation include:

- Assign an individual in each work area to ensure computers, copiers, printers and room lights are turned off at the end of each workday.
- Send periodic e-mail reminders about turning off lights and computers and implementing other energy-efficient practices.
- Post signs near light switches, copiers and communal printers to remind employees to conserve energy.
- In facilities where temperatures are kept higher to reduce air conditioning use during the summer, allow employees to wear cooler, appropriate attire throughout the week.
- Assign a lead staff person responsible for department coordination to ensure energy conservation measures are implemented.
- As appropriate, ensure measures are implemented with a minimum of disruption to public services. In those facilities with frequent public use, make sure the public is made aware of City efforts to conserve energy.
- Discourage use of City offices by employees outside of normal work hours (6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Additional energy saving tips and energy conservation signs are available for both employees and homeowners on the City’s Energy Conservation and Management Division web site, located

<http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services> .

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The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City’s long-term disposal needs. The Department also oversees the City’s management of energy use and explores innovative options for energy independence. For more information on recycling or Environmental Services, visit the department’s web site at <http://www.sandiego/environmental-services/>.

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